duced by the Railway establishment are inadequate ;

(d) whether Government propose to provide advance technology being developed by R & D railways for manufacturing of concrete sleepers by Private entrepreneurs to meet the continuous growing demand and save forests for better environment; and

(e) if so, the names and addresses of the authorities to be approached by entrepreneurs for obtaining technology and technical know-how for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Concrete sleepers are being laid on all high density routes as a part of track renewals planned on such routes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Railways are already providing such advanced technology to the private entrepreneurs.

(e) Research, Designs & Standards Organisation, Lucknow.

Waiting room at Guwahati Railway Station

3669. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the upkeep of the first class waiting room at Guwahati Railway Station is in poor shape ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the waiting room is not large enough considering the huge number of passengers travelling from Guwahati ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway land in Assam

3670. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large area of railway land lying un-utilised at Pandu, Amingaon, Maligaon and New Guwahati in Assam, where there has been encroachment over that land ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the encroachers are demanding allotment of that land to them on lease-basis; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The railway administration has taken action to evict the encroachers from Railway Land under provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of unauthorised occupants) Act, 1971. The Railways have, however, offered to relinquish 90 acre of railway land at Amingaon to the State Government for rehabilitation of the refugees who have encroached upon railway land in Pandu-Guwahati area. Further action in the matter rests with the State Government.

Special train from New Jalpaiguri to Delhi

3671. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for the introduction of the special train

from New Jalpaiguri to Delhi has been received by Government ; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Arrears of freight charges

3672. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amounts of arrears due from private parties as freight charges, wharfage, demurrage charged, expenditure for building railways, the sidings and other structures and annual charges therefor during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) the amount waived off during the above period year-wise and the reasons therfor ;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to recover these arrears and penalise the defaulters; and

(d) whether these deaulters are still being provided with these services and facilities without realising full charges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Represetation from Khokha Union, Railway Premises, Mansa in Pumjab

3673. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether Minister has received a representation dated 9th March, 1992 from President of Khokha Union, Railway Premises, Mansa, Bhatinda District, Puniab seeking protection against ecviction of their members who are doing shoe-making business and earning their livelihood since long ;

(b) whether Government are taking steps to provide them alternate sites so that these Poor people are no uprooted ; and

(c) whether these poor people would be allowed at the present sites on humanitarian grounds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARAJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The responsibility for rehabilitation of the affected people, if considered necessary on humanitarian grounds, rests with the State Government.

Pay Scale of Commercial Couriers in Western Railway

3674. SHRI RAMCHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a cadre known as Commercial Couriers in Western Railway have been provided with higher pay scale of Rs. 260-430 ;

(b) if so, the reasons for not extending the same to similar cadre in the North-Eastern Frontier Railway ;

(c) whether higher pay scale is granted to such cadre in North-Eastern Railway also ; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider granting higher pay scale to commerciale ouriers of N.F. Railway also ?